

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3790

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJECT: PDI CONGRESS OPENS

REF: JAKARTA 4789

1. NATIONAL CONGRESS OF INDONESIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDI) GOT OFF TO SHAKY START APRIL 12 AFTER LAST-MINUTE DELAY OF 7 HOURS TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF FORMER PARTIES NOW FORMING PDI (PNI, IPKI, PARKINDO, PARTAI KATOLIK, AND MURBA) TO CONFER IN RESPECTIVE GROUPS PRIOR TO OPENING SESSION. DELEGATES REPRESENTING 191 OUT OF 258 PDI BRANCHES HEARD SPEECH OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO READ BY PDI FIRST CHAIRMAN USEP RANUWIJAYA SHICH URGED POLITICAL PARTIES TO REFRAIN FROM STRONG RIVALRIES WHICH WOULD DIVIDE THE PEOPLE INTO SEPARATE GROUPS TO WIN VOTES. GENERAL CHAIRMAN SANUSI HARDJADINATA LEFT MEETING HALL CLAIMING ILLNESS BEFORE SESSION FINALLY OPENED.

2. FOLLOWING OPENING CEREMONIES, CONGRESS APPROVED NEW GOVERNING BOARD OF 29 MEMBERS (9 FROM PDI, 6 FROM PARKINDO, 6 FROM PARTAI KATOLIK, 4 FROM IPKI, AND 4 FROM MURBA). MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE GENERAL CHAIRMAN (PNI) AND 15 CHAIRMEN, SECRETARY GENERAL (PARTINDO) AND 7 DEPUTY SECRETARIES, AND GENERAL TREASURER (PARTAI KATOLIK) AND 4 TREASURERS.

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CONGRESS ALSO APPROVED STATUTES AND RULES FOR PARTY OPERATION.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO SINAR HARAPAN, DELAY WAS ARRANGED BY PARTY LEADERS AT LATE NIGHT MEETING APRIL 11 TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR RECONCILIATION OF RIVAL EX-PNI GROUPS LED BY MOHAMMAD ISNAENI AND SUMAWAR SUKOWATI. KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RIVALRY APRIL 10 (REFTEL). ISNAENI FACTION REPORTEDLY WANTED PDI TO CAMPAIGN VIGOROUSLY ALONG NEO-SUKARNOIST LINES RATHER THAN COOPERATE PEACEFULLY WITH GOLKAR. NO OPEN CONFLICT APPEARED AT OPENING SESSION, BUT AT MORNING PNI MEETING ISNAENI LED SINGING OF PNI'S "MMARHEEN MARCH" AND LATER ANNOUNCED HE WOULD NOT SERVE ON PDI GOVERNING BOARD.

NEWSOM

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